UNITED NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL
S/23767
1 April 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 1 APRIL 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 31 March 1992 from Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the so-called issue of Kuwaiti missing persons.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir K. K. AL-NIMA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 31 March 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to our letter of 19 March 1992 concerning the so-called issue of Kuwaiti missing persons, I should like to inform you of the following:

1. In accordance with the request of the coalition forces as set forth in their letter of 6 March 1992 addressed to the President of the Security Council and with a view to conducting inquiries and seeking information on missing persons, Iraq, acting in cooperation with the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Baghdad, published in the Iraqi newspapers Al-Thawah, Al-Jumhuriyah and Al-Iraq for 10, 18 and 25 March 1992 an announcement and lists of the names of 2,101 Kuwaitis and others that the Kuwaiti authorities claim are being detained by it. The ICRC delegation in Baghdad was informed of this step so that it might take the necessary measures to notify ICRC in Geneva and the parties concerned.

2. By its note No. 6597 of 26 March 1992, the ICRC delegation in Baghdad informed us that the Kuwaiti authorities had furnished it with a new list containing 850 names to replace the previous list of 2,101 names published on three occasions in the Iraqi newspapers, on the grounds that the Kuwaiti authorities had reviewed the list and scrutinized the names and had found that they had made mistakes in entering the names and numbers of those they claimed were missing Kuwaitis.

3. Following the publication of the list of 2,101 names indicated in paragraph 1 above, the ICRC delegation in Baghdad informed us, by its note No. 6598 of 26 March 1992, that the fate of 363 of the persons whose names were included in the aforesaid list had become known, as follows:

The names of six persons in the list had been repeated;

Through ICRC, 216 persons had been returned to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia;

In the case of 43 former residents of Kuwait, the delegation submitted applications to Iraq and Kuwait for repatriation to Kuwait;

Nine persons had returned to Kuwait by their own means;

Ten persons had communicated to the ICRC delegation in Baghdad their desire to remain in Iraq;

One Egyptian was in Iraq and was at liberty;

A number of persons had been expelled from Iraq;

Two persons had returned to Kuwait from the Abdali camp on 11 October 1991;

Thirty-two persons had been released from Iraq, had returned to Kuwait and had been registered by the ICRC delegation in Kuwait.

The information given above indicates that the Kuwaiti authorities did not pursue their endeavour to seek missing persons in an earnest and meticulous manner and that they only sought to insinuate and fabricate as many names as possible and the largest numbers possible for purposes of deception and in order to cause offence to Iraq on a basis of enmity and malice. All of this confirms the unsubstantiated character of the allegations made by the authorities in question and corroborates the fact that they have ignored the true state of affairs and introduced fabrications and that the underlying objective of the allegations made has been to damage Iraq's reputation and contrive to have the Security Council maintain the embargo and economic boycott against it and to justify its continuation.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs